



KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL NORTHEAST CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

AUGUST MINUTES (August 16th, 2025)

Attending:

Tom Egan, Greg Watlington, , Rob Roberts, Jim Catt, Harry Ennis, Scott Hale, Elgin Gonce, Dean Yates, George Fulwider, Jared Malone, Rickey Poore

Excused:

Jody Mims, Michael Turley

Call to Order

Scott opened the meeting at 9:02 AM.

Opening Prayer

George began our meeting in prayer.

Approval of June 2025 Minutes

Tom previously distributed draft minutes of the July 2025 Advisory Council meeting for review. Tom asked if anyone had any issues with these draft minutes. No issues were raised and Tom asked for a motion to accept the draft minutes. Jim made the motion and Rob 2nd. Motion passed without exception.

Financial Report

Harry highlighted that his financial records indicate we have a cash balance of \$17,587.50.

With this large cash balance and the fact that our weekend is being funded by Altar Fellowship Church, it was recommended that we should not ask for team donations but only accept donations from volunteers and the churches of our volunteers. We are in a very good financial position. George highlighted that one of the reason for our improved financial condition resulted from previous low cash balances and our efforts to replenish cash. This shows we need to always look to build a strong financial base in our ministry.

As the upcoming weekend is being funded, the question was asked as to how this will work and whether Altar Fellowship Church will give us a check to reimburse our expenses or will they pay weekend expenses directly. This is an important issue as our KPML assessment of 17% comes from expenses and revenues of our weekends going through our books. We cannot have the reimbursement eliminate or reduce our assessment to KPML. After some discussion on changing our procedures to take this into consideration, it was decided that Harry would check with Christy, our State Finance person, to get her input on how the Altar Fellowship paying weekend expenses needs to be handled from an accounting perspective.

Discussion on other elements of Altar Fellowship support for the weekend ensued. The praise music team is from Altar Fellowship as well as new volunteers, some of whom are clergy. These individuals will all need to go through TDOC clearance and training. It was highlighted that Resy may do a one-time clearance on some of these individuals if they are not planning on working future weekends or joining our Tuesday prayer and share sessions.

George said there was an individual from his church who would like to work a weekend. He provided Dean with his contact information and Dean will follow up with him.

Spiritual Director Devotion

Michael was at a funeral and could not attend.

Communications Coordinator

Jared met with a group of AC members including Dean, Scott and Rob in Mountain City to install new shelving at our storage facility. The group also met with David South, Marietta and others from Bethany Baptist to discuss our relationship with the Church and kitchen support opportunities for Kairos 45. After a productive and positive discussion with Bethany, it was decided to re-locate kitchen support back to where it has been for decades at Bethany. They welcomed us back and we feel comfortable that the level of support they offered will be more than adequate to support our weekend in September. We informed them that future Kairos weekend support is still undecided at this time.

There have been issues at First Christian Church, where we were planning to move kitchen support for Kairos 45. It has been difficult getting hold of the pastor and his wife. It was also evident to us that First Christian did not fully understand what was required to support our weekends and did not have adequate resources in place to provide kitchen support for Kairos 45 last April. Had the weekend not been cancelled, this would have been a serious issue. Other activities were scheduled at the Church

during the Kairos weekend, which would have created confusion and caused serious delays. We will tell First Christian of our decision and why we made this decision. We will ask for their help at Bethany for the upcoming weekend so they can get a better understanding of what is needed. We will continue to enhance our local kitchen support facilities in the Mountain City area to ensure that our future Kairos weekends are adequately supported. We have committed one weekend to Bethany Baptist Church but will continue to investigate other alternatives. Bethany is planning their usual Wednesday night prayer service and dinner for the team to kick off the weekend.

We discussed that the whole process of moving our kitchen support from Bethany Baptist is a learning experience of what can go wrong and one that should make us absolutely guarantee we have fully documented what are needs are, and are 100% certain the resources needed to support those needs are in place and dedicated to our weekend. We all agreed that this can never happen again.

We all agreed, and will determine what needs to be in place before we ever decide to relocate our kitchen support again in the future.

Kairos Outside

Scott mentioned that today is the first team meeting for the next Kairos Outside weekend. He once again asked for our help with the candlelight service over the weekend and the tear down of the weekend on Sunday and will get us the dates of these activities.

Emmaus Liaison

Greg is going to the first Emmaus Walk meeting this evening. He will bring Kairos information sheets and signup sheets for Closing Ceremonies for Kairos 45. He also will be sending us a signup sheet for the Closing that we will need to give to anyone who may wish to attend.

NECX Liaison Report

Jim and Rob were the only Kairos members to attend the LCRB on Tuesday. Not many others attended from other ministries. Resy and Warden Andrews were there from the Administration.

Two items were on the agenda:

- Our musician on Tuesday needs new guitar strings. We unfortunately cannot just donate them to this individual based on the federal rules for equal treatment. Donating guitar strings to a single individual may require that same donation to everyone at the prison. Since there is not a vendor relationship for guitar strings

at NECX there is not much we can do. Jim showed us a memo from Warden Eller outlining these new rules that went into effect July 1st, 2025.

- There are also new regulations on July 1st regarding bringing food in the prison. Large meals are being discouraged with smaller, size snack foods, replacing the larger meals. This is definitely on a case by case basis and may have an impact on our Christmas dinner and a smaller impact on our weekends. We need to get our weekend menu approved and need to do that ASAP. We will need to submit our menu's to Resy earlier now.

These new rules are in place and not up for discussion. We will need to live within these new guidelines. We are fortunate to have a good relationship with NECX and be able to do as much as we do with the men. Other facilities cannot take food inside and do not have weekly prayer and share meetings. The new rules may not have any impact on us at all but we need to ensure we get approval on all food and our menus are submitted as early as possible before an event.

Dean will give Jim a copy of our menu for K45 and Jim will review with Resy this week.

On a positive note, from the LCRB meeting, Warden Andrew and Warden Eller value our ministry and are very supportive in what we do. Chaplin Resy is also one of our biggest Kairos supporters.

Data Coordinator

Rob thanked Scott for the shelving he installed for our storage unit. It made a big improvement. Greg has a list of all of the items that should be in the tubs in the storage unit, although a physical inventory has not been completed. He will provide that list to Rob and Rob will complete his inventory after our weekend in September.

Kairos 45 update

Dean highlight that is has been hectic. The team for Kairos 45 is changing on a daily basis. The big concern he has is with the limited number of clergy he has signed up. He also does not have a firm commitment from Altar Fellowship on the praise team, volunteers and clergy they will provide for the weekend.

The first team meeting for K45 is planned for next Saturday at Crossroads Church in Kingsport from 9AM to 3PM. There will be a potluck lunch. Snacks have been donated for this event.

Dean wants the expense of Camp Placid included in what Altar Fellowship covers.

Fundraising

With our financial situation and the fact that our weekend is funded, we did not discuss fundraising at the meeting.

New Business

One day Retreat

George asked the status of our one day retreat which was scheduled between K44 and K45. We just did not have the committed resources to do this event during this timeframe so it was postponed. George rightfully felt this was a missed opportunity not holding this event with the men inside and we need to reschedule and do these retreats on a regular basis. .

Advisory Council Vacancy

There are 4 vacancies on the Council for 2026 and in September, Tom will be asking our Community for nominations for our upcoming 2026 elections. Scott asked the Council to think of individuals who can fill the following vacancies:

- Financial Secretary
- Fundraising
- Continuing Ministries
- Data Coordinator

Old Business

Volunteer Recertification

Resy has all of the information for all of our volunteers. Volunteers will be contacted by Nashville directly on when they need to be recertified.

New Business

Prayer Reques

- In thanksgiving for Jared in the purchase of his new home next week.
- For Kairos 45 and doing Christ's work inside NECX.
- For healing for Doug Fox and the medical issues he is having.
- For Harry's wife's aunt who recently went to her final reward.
- For Tom's long time friend Pete who also went to his final reward.
- Support for Scott who lost his job yesterday.

Closing Prayer

Jim ended our meeting in prayer highlighting the prayer requests.

Closing

Scott ended the meeting at 10:45 AM

Respectively submitted,

Tom Egan, Secretary

Tom